

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-73 were originally pending in this application. Claims 14-20, 41-53 and 67-73 are withdrawn from consideration. As a result, claims 1-13, 21-40 and 54-66 are currently pending. Claims 1, 21, 31 and 54 are independent. By this Amendment, all of the pending claims (i.e., claims 1-73) are cancelled. New claims 74-88 are added. No new matter has been amended by this Amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-13, 21-40 and 54-66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,035,323 to Narayen et al. ("Narayen") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,571 to Ota ("Ota").

As indicated above, all of the pending claims including the rejected claims have been cancelled rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

New Claims

Claims 74-88 have been added to recite claimed invention in an alternative manner. Specifically, one of the aspects of the invention as featured in independent claims 74, 79 and 84 is directed to a control method/apparatus configured to receive an image and associated photographing conditions from an image sensing apparatus, to input additional information corresponding to the received image, and to store in a memory the received image and associated photographing conditions and the inputted additional information. The control method/apparatus

of the present invention then searches an image in the memory by the additional information and transfers photographing conditions corresponding to the searched image to the image sensing apparatus.

One of the aspects of the present invention as featured in the independent claims is to search an image in the memory by the additional information, not by the photographing conditions, and then transfer photographing conditions corresponding to the searched image to the image sensing apparatus.

It is disclosed in Narayen that inputs image and photographing conditions from the digital image input device 521 to the client computer system 501, and adds information, such as a title, photographed place, and photographer, to the input image. Ota discloses displaying an image and photographing conditions on the computer monitor.

However, none of the cited references (i.e., Narayen and Ota) shows or suggests searching an image in the memory by the additional information, not by the photographing conditions, and transferring photographing conditions corresponding to the searched image to the image sensing apparatus, as specifically recited in added independent claims 74, 79 and 84.

Accordingly, added independent claims 74, 79 and 84, and claims dependent therefrom (i.e., claims 75-78, 80-83 and 85-88, respectively) are believed to be allowable over the cited references (i.e., Narayen and Ota), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants file herewith an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) citing three Japanese references (i.e., JPLOs 05-252432; 09-098373; and 10-178584).

JPLO 05-252432 discloses that easily changing attribution data are supported when automatically recording video and audio data together with the attribution data, such as photographing data and data generated by a recording apparatus. JPLOs 05-252432 further discloses that a user can define an arbitrary new item as the attribution data upon changing the attribution data.

JPLO 10-178584 discloses recording an image and image sensing conditions on a VCR, transferring a reproduced image to a database unit, symbolizing the image sensing conditions, and making database of the symbolized image sensing conditions. JPLO 10-178584 further discloses that when one or more symbols are read from the database and displayed on a monitor, and one of the symbols is selected, the image sensing conditions of the selected symbol are automatically set in a camera.

As a result, none of the cited references in the IDS shows or suggests the invention as featured in claims 74, 79 and 84 as discussed above, i.e., search an image in the memory by the additional information, not by the photographing conditions, and then transfer photographing conditions corresponding to the searched image to the image sensing apparatus.

Accordingly, new claims 74-88 are believed to be allowable over the Japanese references cited in the IDS for at least the reasons discussed above.

Applicants believe that the application with the added claims is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.


AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4582). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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